

Salt Pond Subwatershed

Falmouth, Cape Cod, Massachusetts

The Salt Pond Subwatershed is located in Falmouth. It is a small watershed with an area of 252 acres. The majority of the area is residentially developed, though the area is located just west of downtown Falmouth. It is bordered to the south by Vineyard Sound.

Approximately five percent of Falmouth is publicly sewered. Main Street in Falmouth and nearly all of Woods Hole are sewered. Ninety to ninety-five percent of the town is on municipal water. There is one treatment plant in Falmouth, currently processing 550,000 gallons per day (gpd) with a capacity of 810,000 gpd, discharging to groundwater. A \$14 million upgrade has been approved to bring the capacity up to one million gpd in the next few years.

Stewards:

- Falmouth Associations Concerned with Estuaries and Saltponds (FACES)
- Falmouth Pond Watchers

Studies conducted in the watershed:

- A paper was written on green algae in Salt Pond in 1970 by Edward Hulbert. *Ecology* 5(1).
- Salt Pond Topography, Sediments, and Water. 1971. Salt Pond Bird Sanctuaries, Inc. Annual Report. C.M. Kim and K.O. Emory.
- Biochemistry of dimethylsulfide in a seasonally stratified coastal salt pond. 1987. *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* 51(6) 1675-1684.
- Occurrence and distribution of diverse populations of magnetic proteobacteria in a chemically stratified coastal salt pond. 2000. D.A. Bazylinski et al. *Chemical Geology* 169:319-328.
- Cape Cod Atlas of Tidally Restricted Salt Marshes. 2001. Cape Cod Commission.

Who is collecting water quality data and where:

- Falmouth Pond Watchers may begin collecting data on Salt Pond if funding becomes available.

Management actions taken:

- Unknown

Subwatershed facts: (For data sources see Appendix)

- 21 E sites: none
- Solid waste sites: none
- No Interim Wellhead Protection Areas (IWPAs) or Zone IIs.
- Percent of the undeveloped land that is protected (according to 1985/1990 data): 71.6%
- Acres of existing wetlands: 6
- Certified vernal pools: none
- Named freshwater ponds: none

- Named rivers or creeks: none
- Shellfish growing areas: Salt Pond is prohibited for shellfish harvesting.
- Beach closures: Surf Beach was closed to swimming during part of the 2001 season due to high fecal coliform bacteria counts.

Priorities:

- Acquire open space. Parcels considered a priority for acquisition for water supply protection and development: Falmouth Tracts 4, 6, 11, 12, 19, 26, 33, and 35 were ranked as having medium or high water supply development potential in the Cape Cod Commission's *Priority Land Acquisition Assessment Project* (April 1999). These tracts are located throughout the Town of Falmouth.
- Implement those salt marsh restoration projects identified in the 2001 *Cape Cod Atlas of Tidally Restricted Salt Marshes* that have been evaluated and prioritized by the town. The site located in this subwatershed is the Surf Drive restriction of channel into Salt Pond (Site FA-1).
- Investigate source of high fecal counts at Surf Beach.
- Secure funding to extend Falmouth Pond Watchers water quality monitoring program to Salt Pond.

Recreation:

Camping areas: none

Golf courses: none

Pathways and trails:

- Salt Pond Bird Sanctuary
- www.capecodcommission.org/pathways/trailguide.htm

Public access:

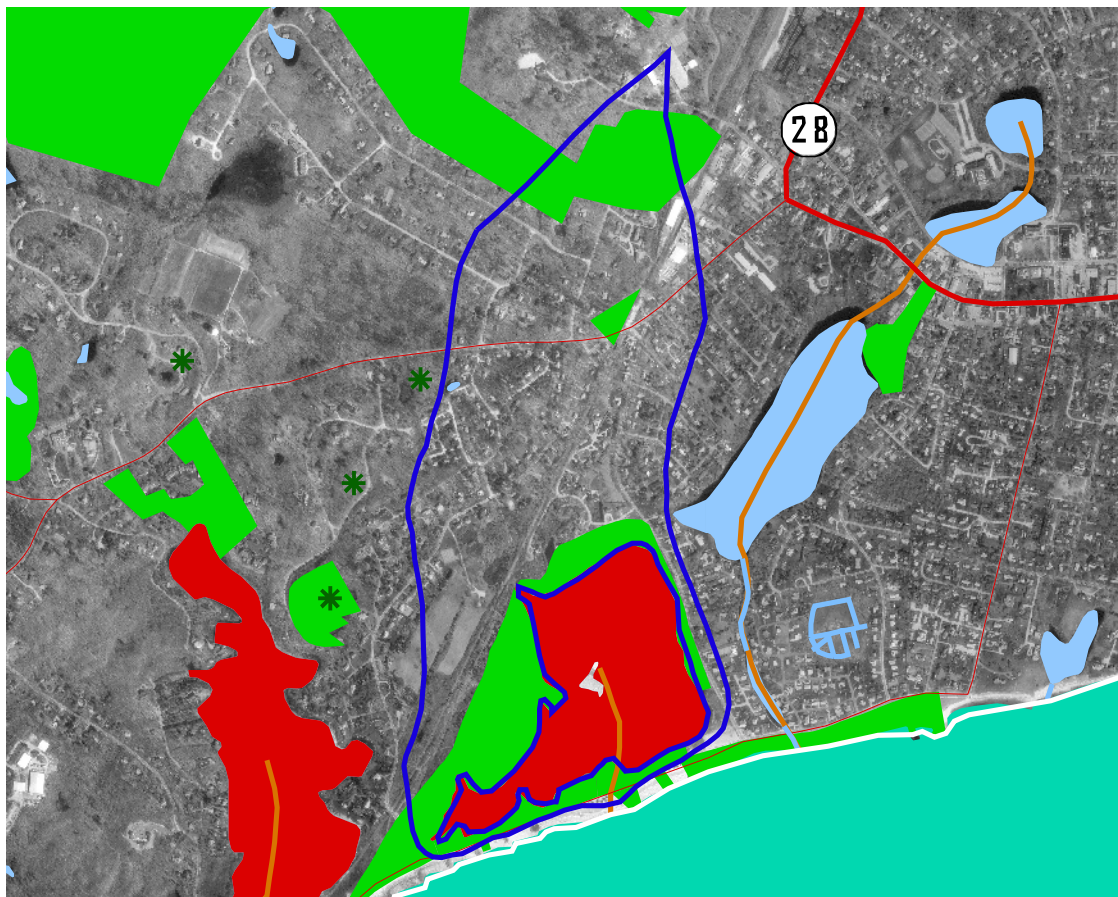
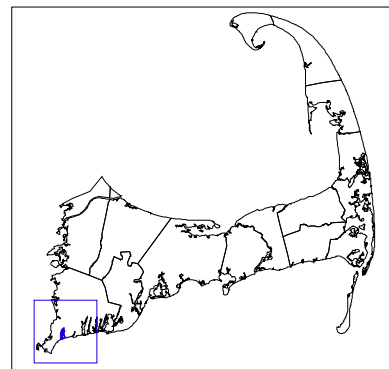
- www.state.ma.us/dfwele/pab/pabSEmap.htm

Public beaches and landings:

- Falmouth Beach

Salt Pond

Falmouth, MA



Watershed Resources



0 0.2 0.4 0.6 Miles

Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program Data

- Certified Vernal Pool
- Priority Habitats of Rare Species
- Estimated Habitats of Rare Species

Groundwater Protection Areas

- Interim Wellhead Protection Area
- Zone II
- Solid Waste Facility

Watershed Boundary

Anadromous Fish Run

Shellfish Growing Areas

- APPROVED
- CONDITIONALLY APPROVED
- MANAGEMENT CLOSURE
- PROHIBITED
- RESTRICTED
- Open Space

Streams

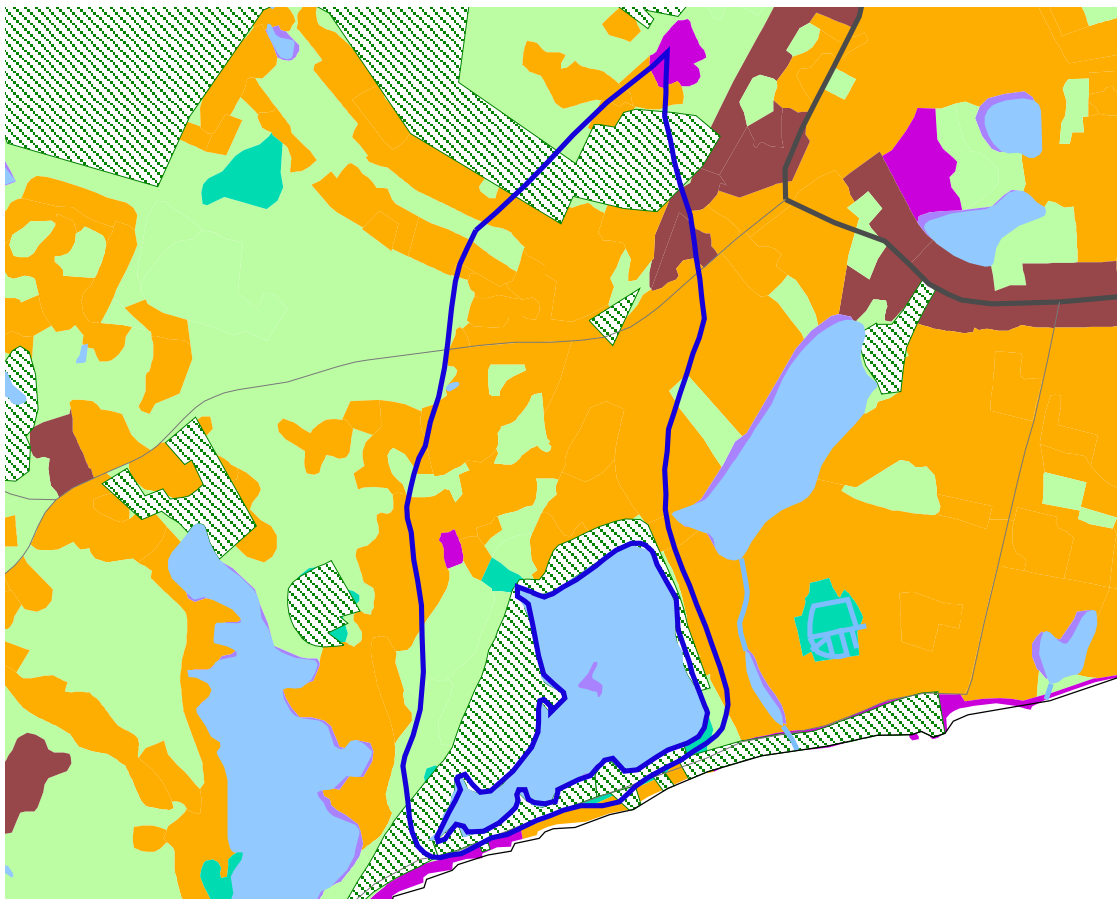
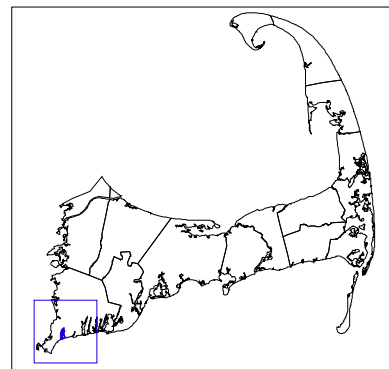
Ponds

Roads



Salt Pond

Falmouth, MA



Land Use

Land Use

- non-residential developed
- open land
- recreation
- residential
- water
- wetland

- Streams
- Ponds
- Watershed Boundary
- Protected Open Space



0 0.2 0.4 0.6 Miles

